

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a fusion polypeptide comprising epidermal growth factor (EGF) and human serum albumin in a plant, which comprises the steps of:
 - (a) transforming plant cells with a polynucleotide sequence comprising:
 - (i) a nucleotide sequence encoding said fusion polypeptide comprising EGF and human serum albumin linked to the C-terminal end or N-terminal end of said EGF; and in which the stability of said EGF is enhanced by virtue of said human serum albumin;
 - (ii) a promoter that functions in plant cells to cause the production of an RNA molecule operably linked to the nucleotide sequence of (i); and
 - (iii) a 3'-non-translated region that functions in plant cells to cause the polyadenylation of the 3'-end of said RNA molecule;
 - (b) selecting transformed plant cells;
 - (c) regenerating a plant from said transformed cells; and
 - (d) recovering from said regenerated plant said fusion polypeptide.
2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said plant is *Nicotiana tabacum*, *Cucumis melo*, *Curcumis sativa*, *Citrullus vulgaris* or *Brassica campestris*.
3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein a the nucleotide sequence of said EGF comprises nucleotides 1-159 as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.
4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said human serum albumin is linked to the C-terminal end of said EGF.
5. (Previously Presented) A method for preparing a fusion polypeptide comprising EGF and human serum albumin in a plant, which comprises the steps of:
 - (a) inoculating an explant material from said plant with *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* harboring a vector, in which said vector is capable of inserting into a genome of a cell from said plant and contains the following nucleotide sequences:

- (i) a nucleotide sequence encoding said fusion polypeptide comprising EGF and human serum albumin linked to the C-terminal or N-terminal of said EGF; and in which the stability of said EGF is enhanced by virtue of said human serum albumin;
- (ii) a promoter that functions in plant cells to cause the production of an RNA molecule operably linked to the nucleotide sequence of (i); and
- (iii) a 3'-non-translated region that functions in plant cells to cause the polyadenylation of the 3'-end of said RNA molecule;

- (b) regenerating the inoculated explant material on a regeneration medium to obtain regenerated shoots;
- (c) culturing said regenerated shoots on a rooting medium to obtain a transformed plant, in which said transformed plant is capable of expressing said nucleotide sequence of (i); and
- (d) recovering from said transformed plant said fusion polypeptide.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein said plant is *Nicotiana tabacum*, *Cucumis melo*, *Curcumis sativa*, *Citrullus vulgaris* or *Brassica campestris*.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein ~~a~~ the nucleotide sequence of said EGF comprises nucleotides 1-159 as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein said human serum albumin is linked to the C-terminal end of said EGF.